



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR.  
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION  
1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986

# Press Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Contact:** Jill L. Miles  
**Phone:** (800) 368-8808

### **Attorney General McGraw Offers Tips on Avoiding ID Theft, Fraud During Upcoming 2010 US Census**

CHARLESTON – With the 2010 Census just around the corner, West Virginia Attorney General Darrell McGraw is alerting residents of West Virginia to keep a watchful eye out for schemes and tricksters attempting to phish for personal information.

The U.S. Constitution requires a national census every 10 years to count all residents of the United States. On Monday, March 1, U.S. Census forms will be mailed to 134 million American households. The form asks ten questions including your age, date of birth, race and whether you rent or own a home. An authentic Census form will not ask for your Social Security number or information about your taxes and income.

Households that do not return a completed Census form by April 1 can expect a phone call or a personal visit from a Census Taker. To avoid the risk of fraud and identity theft, citizens should follow these Census Safety Tips:

- The official Census does not ask for your Social Security number; don't give out that information to anyone claiming to be with the Census Bureau.
- The Census does not ask for credit card or bank account information.
- The Census Bureau will not contact you via email.
- You cannot file your Census form over the internet. The Census Bureau does not solicit information over the internet, so do not respond to websites that claim to be part of a Census survey.
- All Census Takers will carry official government badges marked with their name, a Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date.
- Official Census Workers can provide you with a letter on official letterhead from the Census Director for identification.
- Never invite a Census Taker into your home.

Attorney General McGraw reminds West Virginians that it is important to complete and return your Census form. Data collected from the Census are used to determine where more than \$400 billion in federal funds are allocated each year for hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, emergency services, bridges, tunnels and other public works projects. The Census is also used to determine the number of seats a state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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